

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-04 SCCT-02 USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3325

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 6982

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MX

SUBJ: INTERNAL SECURITY: STATUS OF FIGUEROA KIDNAPPING

1. SUMMARY: DESPITE RUMORS THAT ARMY UNITS HAD SURROUNDED LUCIO CABANAS (WHO, PRESUMABLY, STILL HOLDS CAPTIVE SENATOR RUBEN RIGUEROA), THIS CASE REMAINS UNRESOLVED. THE GOM, UNABLE THUS FAR TO CAPTURE CABANAS OR RECOVER FIGUEROA, HAS LITTLE TO SAY IN PUBLIC ABOUT THE CASE. A DECISION MUST BE REACHED SOON BY THE GOVERNMENT PARTY ABOUT FIGUEROA'S CANDIDACY FOR GOVERNOR OF GUERRERO STATE. END SUMMARY.

2. RUMORS PICKED UP BY THE MEXICO CITY PRESS (AND REFLECTING REPORTEDLY CLOSELY HELD INFORMATION EMANATING FROM GOM SOURCES) DURING THE PAST TWO WEEKS ALLEGED THAT MEXICAN ARMY UNITS HAD SURROUNDED LUCIO CABANAS AND A GROUP OF SUPPORTERS. ACCORDING TO THESE STORIES, THE ARMY WAS "AWAITING ORDERS" TO MOVE IN. IF THE STORIES WERE BASED ON FACT, THE DELAY IN MOVING IN ON THE GUERRILLAS MAY HAVE BEEN CONCERN FOR THE WELFARE OF SENATOR FIGUEROA, CAPTURED BY CABANAS SHORTLY AFTER THE SENATOR'S DISAPPEARANCE ON MAY 30.

3. PREDICTABLY, IN THE ABSENCE OF HARD INFORMATION, RUMORS ARE RIFE. ONE WIDELY REPEATED STORY CLAIMED THAT FIGUEROA WAS UNDER TREATMENT IN A HOSPITAL IN HOUSTON. OTHERS HINT AT CONTACTS BETWEEN CABANAS AND THE FIGUEROA FAMILY. MORE
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GENERALIZED RUMORS ALMOST DAILY ALLEGE THAT FIGUEROA WILL BE

RELEASED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

4. COMMENT: THE GOM REMAINS LARGELY SILENT ON THE KIDNAPPING.
THE GOVERNMENT PARTY (PRI) MUST, HOWEVER, MAKE A DECISION
WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS ON WHETHER TO REPLACE FIGUEROA WITH
ANOTHER CANDIDATE FOR THE GOVERNOR OF GUERRERO.
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